



325 Selden Street

1895

Selden School 1895-mid 1970s

Olive Webster (1790-1868) & Simeon Selden (1784-1829). Olive was the wealthy widow of Simeon Selden or Seldon. She left \$9, 500 to school district #7

Private residence since mid 1970s

1985 Townwide Historic and Architectural Survey of Berlin, Connecticut. Survey # 154

1895 Selden Street School

current owner: John Bolles

The Selden Street School is historically significant as a long-time educational institution in Berlin. In 1868, Mrs. Olive Selden (also known as Seldon), a wealthy widow, died in Beckley Quarter (northeastern Berlin) and left a fund of some \$9,500 to School District No. 7. This fund was ultimately used to build and maintain this school, which remained in the Berlin system until recent years. As a large brick schoolhouse, it was considered a progressive improvement over the earlier small frame district school. Since the mid-1970's it has been a private home.

2018 Town of Berlin GIS Index.

Sketch

1895 Marilyn Clayton



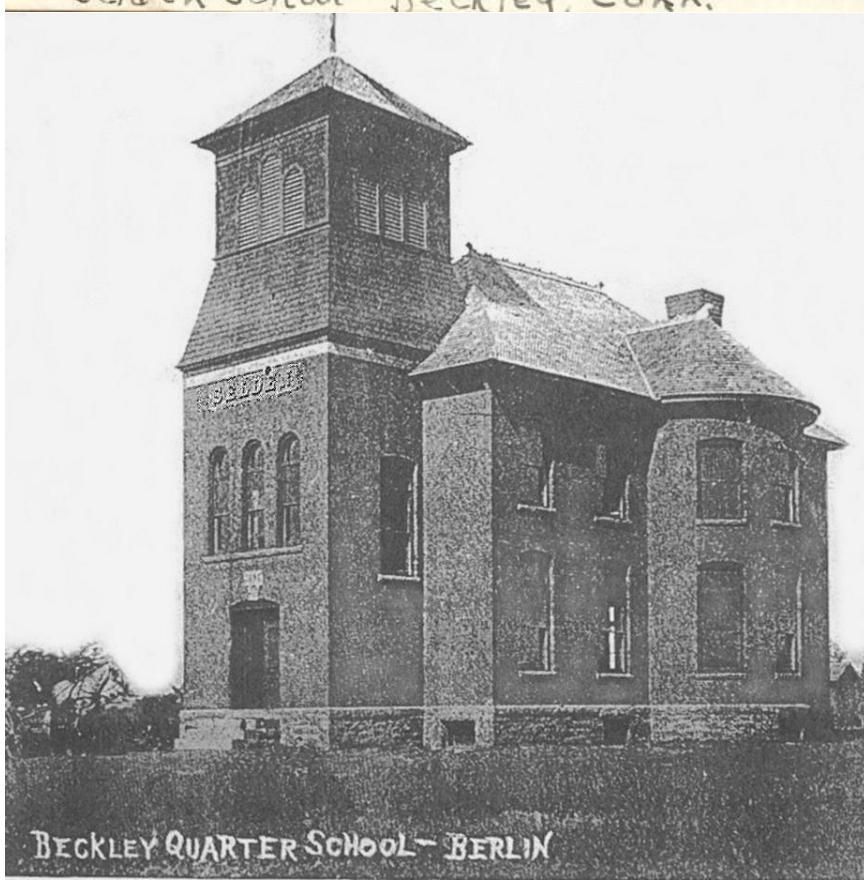
Genealogy

Olive was the wealthy widow of Simeon Selden or Seldon. She left \$9, 500 to school district #7. The money was ultimately used to build and maintain Selden School, 355 Selden St., Berlin. She died at age 71 years. Beers, pub. - p.1041 Hale Cemetery Records - p.1041

Olive Webster (1790-1868) daughter of John Webster & Eunice Deming. In 1821, she married Simeon Selden (1784-1829) of Middle Haddam, CT, son of Capt. Elias Selden & Ruth Kirby. They had 4 children: Simeon, Lovey, Norris, & Sarah. Simeon died in Middle Haddam, CT. Olive died in Berlin and is buried in Beckley Cemetery.



Selden School Beckley, Conn.



BECKLEY QUARTER SCHOOL - BERLIN

**HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY
BUILDING AND STRUCTURES**

HIST-6 NEW 5/77

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION
59 SOUTH PROSPECT STREET, HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106
(203) 566-3005

#154

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Town No.:	Site No.:
UTM:	
QUAD:	
DISTRICT	
IF NR. SPECIFY	
<input type="checkbox"/> S	<input type="checkbox"/> NR
<input type="checkbox"/> Actual <input type="checkbox"/> Potential	

1. BUILDING NAME (Common)		(Historic)	
		Selden Street School	
2. TOWN CITY Berlin		VILLAGE	COUNTY Hartford
3. STREET AND NUMBER (and/or location) 325 Selden Street		5-3/123/1	
4. OWNER(S) Bolles, John F. Jr.		171 Main St. Newington 06111	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private
5. USE (Present) Residence		(Historic) School	
6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		EXTERIOR VISIBLE FROM PUBLIC ROAD <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	INTERIOR ACCESSIBLE IF YES, EXPLAIN
7. STYLE OF BUILDING 19th century vernacular		DATE OF CONSTRUCTION 1895	
8. MATERIAL(S) (Indicate use or location when appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Clapboard <input type="checkbox"/> Asbestos Siding <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brick walls <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wood Shingle <input type="checkbox"/> Asphalt Siding <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fieldstone foundation <input type="checkbox"/> Board & Batten <input type="checkbox"/> Stucco <input type="checkbox"/> Cobblestone <input type="checkbox"/> Aluminum Siding <input type="checkbox"/> Concrete Type: <input type="checkbox"/> Cut stone Type: _____			
9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM			
<input type="checkbox"/> Wood frame <input type="checkbox"/> Post and beam <input type="checkbox"/> balloon <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Load bearing masonry <input type="checkbox"/> Structural iron or steel <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____			
10. ROOF (Type)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Gable <input type="checkbox"/> Flat <input type="checkbox"/> Mansard <input type="checkbox"/> Monitor <input type="checkbox"/> sawtooth <input type="checkbox"/> Gambrel <input type="checkbox"/> Shed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hip <input type="checkbox"/> Round <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ (Material) <input type="checkbox"/> Wood Shingle <input type="checkbox"/> Roll Asphalt <input type="checkbox"/> Tin <input type="checkbox"/> Slate <input type="checkbox"/> Gable end to the street <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Asphalt shingle <input type="checkbox"/> Built up <input type="checkbox"/> Tile <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Ridge parallel to the street			
11. NUMBER OF STORIES 2		APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS 28' x 53'	
12. CONDITION (Structural) (Exterior)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated			
13. INTEGRITY (Location)		WHEN?	(Alterations)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On original site		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Later sash, front entry
14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES			
<input type="checkbox"/> Barn <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shed <input type="checkbox"/> Garage <input type="checkbox"/> Other landscape features or buildings (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/> Carriage house <input type="checkbox"/> Shop <input type="checkbox"/> Garden			
15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT			
<input type="checkbox"/> Open land <input type="checkbox"/> Wood land <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Residential <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scattered buildings visible from site <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rural <input type="checkbox"/> High building density			
16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS			
On a large, wooded lot in a relatively isolated portion of northwestern Berlin			

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PHOTO	PHOTOGRAPHER HRC	DATE 11/84
	VIEW N,SE	NEGATIVE ON FILE F30; 31
COMPILED BY	NAME Historic Resource Consultants	DATE 12/84
	ADDRESS Berlin Armory 55 Van Dyke Avenue Hartford, Connecticut 06108	
20 SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATION		

Place
Photograph
Here
(See Continuation Sheet for Photo)

DESCRIPTION (Continued)	17 OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior)	
	<p>The Selden Street School is a two-story, hipped roof brick building with a large brick tower centered on the facade (south elevation). The building has a raised random ashlar foundation with a brick water table. Windows are segmental-arched with brownstone sills and are generally fitted with one-over-one sash; first floor windows have small fixed panes above. The one-bay three-story tower has a large segmental-arched doorway with a dated brownstone keyblock. Above are three round-arched windows on a continuous brownstone sill, above which is a brownstone tablet carved with the word "Selden." The hip-roofed cupola sits on a shingled base and has triple round-arched louvres suggesting a Palladian window, fish scale shingles, and a bracketed cornice. The left (west) elevation has a single two-bay two-story rectilinear ell; the right has a circular bay with a conical roof. To the rear are steel fire stairs and an exterior brick chimney.</p>	
SIGNIFICANCE	18 ARCHITECT	BUILDER
	19 HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE	
<p>The Selden Street School is historically significant as a long-time educational institution in Berlin. In 1868, Mrs. Olive Selden (also known as Seldon), a wealthy widow, died in Beckley Quarter (northeastern Berlin) and left a fund of some \$9,500 to School District No. 7. This fund was ultimately used to build and maintain this school, which remained in the Berlin system until recent years. As a large brick schoolhouse, it was considered a progressive improvement over the earlier small frame district school. Since the mid-1970's it has been a private home.</p> <p>Architecturally, the Selden Street School is significant as a good example of eclectic Victorian architecture. The segmental arched windows are typical of 19th and early 20th-century construction, the tower with its Palladian-style louvres and decorative shingles owes something to both Classical Revival and Victorian Vernacular fashions, and the round-arched windows and bracketed cornice suggest an Italianate influence.</p>		
SOURCES	<p>Beers 1901, p. 1043 Burpee, p. 1170 Berlin Land Records 190:531 (1976)</p>	

